



# USS LST-790

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Builder: Dravo Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 22 September 1944

Decommissioned: 27 May 1946

Disposition: Sold for scrap in May, 1948, to Bethlehem Steel Co.

Length: 327' 9" oa

Beam: 50'

Draft: 1' 6" bow, 7' 5" stern (unloaded); 8' 2" bow, 14' 1" stern (loaded -- at sea);  
3' 1" bow, 9' 6" (loaded -- beaching)

Displacement: 1,625 (light); 4,080 (w/ full load of 2,100 tons)

Propulsion: 2 x General Motors 12-567 diesels, twin shafts/rudders

Range: 24,000 nm @ 9 knots

Top Speed: 11.6 knots

Complement: 111

Troops: 163

Initial Armament: 7 x 40mm (single mount); 6 x 20 mm (single mount); 2 x .50-caliber mgs; 4 x .30-caliber mgs

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## Commanding Officers:

LT P. O. Ritter, USCGR: 9 August 1944 - 27 October 1945

LT(jg) W. M. Hammer, USCGR: 27 October 1945 - 27 May 1946

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## History:

### **USS *LST-790***

#### **LST Flotilla 29, Group 86, Division 171**

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-790* was built at the Dravo Shipbuilding Corporation, Neville Island, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and arrived at Algiers, Louisiana, via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on 22 September 1944, on which day she was placed in full commission. After seven days availability for outfitting she proceeded on September 29th to Mobile for a day in drydock and then went on to St. Andrews Bay, Florida, for shakedown exercises between October 2nd and 15th, 1944. She returned to New Orleans on the 17th and after an availability for repairs loaded five sections of LCTs, with crews, and departed for Gulfport, Mississippi to load a naval cargo for the Pacific area.

She left Gulfport on 26 October 1944, and arrived at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1944, via the Canal Zone, San Diego and Port Hueneme, California. Here she unloaded the five sections of LCTs and took aboard *LCT-860* and crew and after a training cruise to Maui, returned to Pearl Harbor on 7 January 1945, to complete repairs and load troops and equipment of the 8th Field Depot, U. S. Marine Corps for the invasion of Iwo Jima. She arrived at Iwo Jima on D+1 day, 20 February 1945. Here the LST was under numerous air alerts and underwent two attacks by Japanese planes, in one of which she shot down two suicide planes and assisted in splashing two more.

Her starboard bow door was badly damaged in striking a sunken LVT during a beaching under darkness and her port side was badly damaged while attempting towing operations with *LST-42* alongside. She launched *LCT-860* and unloaded the U. S. Marine Corps equipment and disembarked the troops and on February 28th was en route Saipan with Task Unit 51.16.8, arriving on 14 March 1945.

On 6 March 1945, she was en route Leyte where she made repairs, changed the starboard screw and held rehearsals with the 96th Division, U. S. Army and Tractor Group E for the Okinawa Invasion. On the 25th she was en route to Okinawa with the tractor group aboard in Task Group 51.14.2 (T.U. 51.14.11) loaded with 663 tons, including 16 LVTs and 444 Army personnel and naval ammunition. She arrived at Okinawa on 1 April 1945, and disembarked 4th and 5th wave troops in LVTs, unloading cargo and ammunition. She was under daily attacks from the air while at Okinawa and the ship suffered damage to the bottom while unloading at the reef at White Beach No. 1.

On the 11th she was en route Saipan where she remained anchored from the 17th to 24th and then stood out for Pearl Harbor en route San Francisco. Here she was granted 30 days availability for repairs and alterations. On July 3rd she was en route Seattle where she loaded vehicles and 136 Army personnel and stood out for Pearl Harbor on the 16th arriving on the 27th. She left Pearl Harbor

on 31 July 1945, en route Okinawa via Eniwetok and Saipan, arriving on 14 September 1945. Here she disembarked the troops from Seattle and loaded 5th Air Force equipment and personnel for the occupation of Japan. She arrived at Tokyo Bay September 15th, disembarking troops and unloading equipment and returned to Okinawa on the 23rd. Here at le Shine she embarked troops of the 5th Air Force and departed again for Tokyo Bay on the 29th arriving on 14 October 1945 to disembark troops and leave for Leyte on October 12th. Arriving at Leyte on October 20th, she proceeded to Samar and then to Umalag, Mindanao, returning to Leyte on 5 November 1945, and proceeding to Manila on the 10th where she once more embarked troops and loaded equipment for Japan, this time reaching Tokyo Bay on the 13th.

After disembarking troops and unloading equipment she departed Tokyo November 29th for San Francisco via Saipan and Pearl Harbor, arriving on 14 January 1946. Here she was decommissioned on 27 May 1946.

The *LST-790* earned two battle stars for her service during World War II.

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#### **Photographs:**

None available.

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#### **Sources:**

LST files, Coast Guard Historian's Office.

United States Coast Guard. *The Coast Guard At War. V. Transports and Escorts. Vol. 2.* Washington: Public Information Division, Historical Section, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, May 1, 1949, pp. 66-116.

United States Navy. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.* Volume VII. Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1981, pp. 574-742.

